



# Kennel Connection

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Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

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## Applying Persistence

If you're new to the shelter adoption process, you may not realize how frequently adoption applications fall through. Why? People change their minds. Or their landlords say no.

For these and other reasons, if you are the second applicant for a pet, or if the pet you're gaga about is "full on applications," don't give up! Here's one example of a happy tail made possible by just a bit of persistence.

About 6 years ago, while searching online for a dog, Laura Penn and Kyle Pflazer came across an approximately 8-month-old puppy named Nunu at Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center. They saw Nunu's photo and knew they had to meet her.

Of their first meeting, Laura says, "[Nunu] was very cautious and shy at first, but was so happy and so well behaved when a staffer brought her outside with us." They fell in love with Nunu on the spot, but were told that someone else had already applied to adopt her. As the second applicants, Laura and Kyle would be considered for Nunu only if the first application fell through.

They went home disappointed, but a few



Olive

days later, they received the best news: "the shelter called us for an adoption interview after the first applicant didn't show up for their interview," says Laura. On March 12, 2010, Nunu—who would soon be renamed Olive—went home with her forever family.

Early on, Olive showed some fairly typical puppy behavior. "She would mouth our hands and had tons of energy," Laura recalls. But she didn't seem to know how to play. She also didn't know how to use the stairs. "We had to take her to a park with steps to teach her," continues Laura. "She was too scared to use the ones at

home. We went through lots of Cheerios showing her, a little at a time, that she didn't need to be so nervous."

Though Laura and Kyle initially crated Olive while they were at work, they soon abandoned that approach. "She hated it and bruised her nose trying to open the door," says Laura. "We started leaving her free in the house while we were out and she didn't destroy anything. Now her crate door is always open and it's her retreat." She's never been much of a chewer anyway. "The only things guaranteed to get chewed are paper coasters," says Laura. "Every single time."

Olive has mellowed over the years. Despite a few lingering anxieties, "she is entirely happy-go-lucky" most of the time, says Laura. "She is amazing with adults and children. With other dogs she wants to play like a puppy, but gets very dominant very quickly," especially when toys are around. Over time, though, Olive's feelings toward other dogs have improved. "We have been so happy that within this past year she has made good friends with a border collie; they see a lot of each other."

Asked about the adoption process, Laura says, "I was surprised at how involved the process is when we started, but looking back I'm glad it was. It's meant to give the animals their best chance, not to be convenient."

by Shannon Angelopoulos

Among the cats I met at the shelter in late 2013 were two adult brown tabbies, Willow and Charlie. Although I seriously considered adopting Willow at that time, it was Charlie whose adorable silent meow stole my heart.

One December day, while visiting Charlie in the "kitty kabana" (the multi-cat room at the shelter), I sat on the bench and he jumped up next to me. I looked at him and said "hello," and he reached his paw up and gently touched the side of my cheek. That sealed it. I submitted the adoption application that day. Even though he was older, fat, and plain, his spirit shone very bright that day.



Charlie

One of the things I loved about Charlie was how goofy he was. He would puff out all of his fur, including his tail, and go running across the house to attack his kicker toys.

He used to lie on my chest at night and purr so loudly it was like a chainsaw. He always seemed so grateful to be here with me. I think he knew where he'd been, and that

he was so lucky to have a home and love.

By early spring 2015, Charlie had developed a cough that we thought was a cold or allergies. Our vet put him on a course of antibiotics, which seemed to help a little bit.

Willow, by that time, had been adopted by someone else but was returned to the shelter in June 2015, which was 2 months before everything happened with Charlie. As I understand it, she was dropped off behind the shelter, where she sat overnight in a carrier until staff came in the next morning.

Meanwhile, Charlie's cough began to get worse. He lost weight. By

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# Director's Letter:

by Linda Shea

Whether you like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, or even engage in the "old fashioned" method of visiting our facility to find out what's going on at the shelter, chances are you won't be able to keep up with the ongoing efforts made to save animal lives. What's more, you may be unaware of the options we have to place animals properly. Among *adoption*, *returns to owner* (of stray animals), *foster care*, and *rescue*, probably the shelter outcome least familiar to most is animal rescue.

Many dog rescue organizations pull specific breeds of dogs from shelters. We don't automatically send all purebred dogs to rescue, but these organizations help with purebred dogs who are not doing well in the bustling shelter environment. Cat rescues often pull cats of any variety, conscious of the high feline intake at the shelter and our limited space. Rescues that specialize in exotic pets, like turtles and lizards, are important because caring for these animals can wreak havoc on a shelter designed primarily for dogs and cats.

Rescues normally work through a system of foster homes—not a brick-and-mortar shelter facility—and therefore must be more selective in the animals they commit to. Typically, they limit their intake of animals to those who have a good prognosis for adoption . . . eventually, and with a lot of work. It may take months, or longer, to rehabilitate an animal to the point at which it is ready for permanent placement in a home. Some animals end up being sanctuary material—meaning that they never become adoptable. Rescues often take animals from our shelter that have health or behavior issues.

Some animals recently pulled by rescue organizations include Jasmine, a Chow Chow who was doing poorly in the kennel environment; Buttercup, a senior English Bulldog who had health issues; and Clara, a stray Chinese Shar-Pei who needed someone experienced with this breed.

Working with rescue organizations is just one of many collaborative efforts we make in our effort to save the lives of homeless pets.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

**Our Mission:** To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals in Frederick County by enforcing all state, county, and city ordinances to the fullest extent possible. We will shelter homeless animals and attempt to place them in safe and loving home environments. We will educate the public on all animal issues to foster a more aware and caring community.

## Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

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## Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

by Doree Lynn Miles

The mission of the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) is to ensure that County programs and policies adequately address the welfare of companion animals. The CAWAC meets at least once each quarter, on the second Monday of March, June, September, and December.

Our next meeting is September 12th, 7:00 p.m., at Frederick County Animal Control, 1832 Rosemont Avenue, in Frederick. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage citizens to attend. If you are unable to attend a CAWAC meeting, you may contact us via email: [cawac.info@gmail.com](mailto:cawac.info@gmail.com). **We want to hear from you!**

■ Doree Lynn Miles is chair of CAWAC and proud momma to FCAC alumni, Chloe and Guinness.

## WILLOW

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mid-August, he was barely eating anything and was sleeping all the time. He then started hiding under the bed. I've had animals all my life, and even though I didn't want to admit it, I knew very well what this combination of behaviors typically means.

I took him to the vet on August 24th, 2015, where a chest X-ray and bloodwork was completed. I got the call that night. There was a huge mass in his lungs. I decided against surgery because it's a serious operation; in the case of lung cancer, it doesn't buy a cat much time. So I got pain meds and an appetite stimulant and I spent every second I could with Charlie. We played, rested in the sun, and watched birds. He was a fighter, but his body gave out. On August 31st, we found him under the bed in our guest room, struggling to breathe. We said goodbye that day, just a little over a year and a half since we'd brought him home.

I actually went to the shelter that day and spent the afternoon with Willow and the other cats. It felt like something Charlie would have wanted, and it gave me comfort to be in the place where we found each other.

I continued to visit Willow over the next several months, always hoping she'd be adopted. But there she stayed for 6 months. She never really seemed interested in me, but she had

moments where she appeared to know who I was and seemed happy to see me.

Willow finally became part of our family in January 2016. Her adoption fee was paid by a citizen who aimed to "pay it forward." That gesture was so touching, and I thank that person for being concerned for her well being. Many people were rooting for her.

Willow has been through a lot in her life through no fault of her own. Understandably, it's taken her a while to adjust to her new home. At first, she seemed wary of our other cats and did not like our yorkie-poo. Now she's happy to lie in the sun or look out the window. Sometimes she gets a little crazy and goes tearing up and down the stairs for about 5 minutes straight. She loves my husband, and goes to him for attention. She has a very loud meow, and she talks to my husband quite frequently when she wants food or attention. I can tell she still has reservations about women, and that's ok with me. She's free to be who she is, and I love her for it. She is a member of my family now, and she will be safe and loved for the rest of her life.

Although it was hard, I wouldn't change one thing about how all of this played out. I loved Charlie so much, and I am so grateful for the time we had together, even though it was way too short. Now I have Willow, and I know she came back into my life at the right time and it all worked out how it was supposed to.



# HOMES WANTED

View all of our adoptable pets on Petfinder ([www.frederick.petfinder.com](http://www.frederick.petfinder.com)) or Petango ([www.petango.com/fcac](http://www.petango.com/fcac)).  
Or stop by for a visit—you never know, you might just find true love!



**PRIM**

This cage is totally cramping my style! I'm a friendly girl in normal circumstances—I even get along with dogs, of all creatures! But this cage weirds me out, so I guess I come across kinda shy. Once I'm home with my forever family, it'll be bye bye shy; hello play, purr, and pounce!



**TACO**

Are you experiencing a purr shortage? If so, I'd like to offer my services. Why choose me from among all of the options available to you? Because I've been purring in exchange for nothing more than eye contact for 12 years. And I'm capable of purring in a home that has other cats, dogs, and people of all ages!



**MIA**

They tell me I've got a good, strong purr motor. I so love chilling out with my human buddies and soaking up the love—I just have to express how happy that makes me! I can't wait to meet my own dog-free forever family so I can show them the purr every day!



**ELLIOTT**

Like many cats, I love a good chin scratch and I crave any kind of attention I'm offered. But unlike a lot of my buddies, I am a yoga master. Ok, so I only took one class, but I. Was. Awesome. Downward dog, move over, it's time for upward cat! Need a yoga partner? Look no further.



**GINGER**

What am I about? I love to play, meet people and dogs, splash in puddles, and get treats and praise when I do the right thing. Also, I am a total lapdog! In fact, if you have a lap that's not currently occupied by a cat, I could be yours!



**BAILEY**

All you need is love. Isn't that how the song goes? Well that's me! Since I got to the shelter, I haven't met a person or dog I didn't like. I'm an easygoing, uncomplicated girl, and I think I'd fit into just about any family!

## Open Wide ...

Ever wonder what kind of veterinary care shelter animals receive? Thanks in large part to the generosity of concerned citizens, local veterinary clinics, and other businesses, we are proud to be able to provide high-quality care to the homeless pets housed at Frederick County Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center (FCAC).

Out of the yearly budget allocated to FCAC from the Frederick County Government, we are able to provide basic veterinary services, which include the following.

- Vaccines: canine distemper combination, feline distemper combination, Bordetella, and rabies (Imrab and Purevax)
- Blood tests: feline leukemia/feline immunodeficiency virus, canine 4DX heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma
- Canine parvovirus fecal test
- Occasional blood work and urinalyses
- Fecal floatation for many animals
- Dewormers targeting various intestinal parasites
- Flea/tick and heartworm preventatives
- Antibiotics, fluids, ear and eye medicines, antacids, and prescription diets
- Basic veterinary supplies, such as syringes, needles, cleansers, antiseptics, gauze, and bandaging materials
- Spay/neuter surgery supplies for our on-site



surgical suite. In addition, our County budget allows us to ensure that each dog, cat, and rabbit adopted from our shelter is spayed or neutered before it goes home. Shelter dogs and cats are spayed and neutered in FCAC's on-site surgical suite. Rabbits are sent to outside veterinary hospitals, as are dogs and cats whose spay/neuter surgeries are considered high risk.

Unfortunately, the animals who find themselves at the shelter often require veterinary care that goes beyond the basics—procedures such as repair of entropion (inverted eyelid) or cherry eye, dental cleanings, tooth extractions, and amputations often must be paid for out of the shelter's modest donation fund, due to a limited medical expenses allotment in the shelter budget. All of the above procedures are performed by local veterinary hospitals. Deciding which animals to help using our donation account can be difficult; we consider the adoptability of the animal, its quality of life, and the prognosis.

FCAC's staff veterinarian, Sharon Thomas, DVM, is also paid from our donation account for 12 hours per week of services performed at the shelter. Her responsibilities include conducting examinations, developing medical protocols, supervising medical aspects of the shelter, providing medical recommendations for the shelter director and supervisors, training staff, working-up more involved cases, and consulting with other veterinarians. Several

local veterinarians donate their time to perform examinations.

FCAC is an open-admission shelter, which means that we cannot turn away any animal brought to us. Our goal is to provide the best care possible for all shelter animals. Although we often wish we could do more, we're proud of what we've been able to accomplish—and the lives we've saved—with the limited resources we have and with the generous donations of time, money, goods, and services provided by Frederick County residents and veterinarians.

Thank you all, on behalf of Frederick County's homeless pets, for your support and assistance throughout the years.

### Upcoming Events To Benefit Homeless Pets

#### Pints for Paws

Oct 20th  
JoJo's Restaurant & Tap House  
16 E. Patrick, Frederick, MD  
Updates and more info here:  
[facebook.com/ffcasonpets](https://facebook.com/ffcasonpets)

#### Yappy Hours

Every month  
(usually the 3rd Thursday)  
Barley & Hops  
5473 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD  
Check for dates here:  
[facebook.com/ffcasonpets](https://facebook.com/ffcasonpets)

## It's The Law, Part 5: Animal Sexual Abuse

by Felicia Langel, DVM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) recently listed animal cruelty as a "Group A" felony and now considers it a "crime against society." Like murder, arson, and assault, animal cruelty now has its own category in the FBI crime database, known as the National Incident-Based Reporting System, or NIBRS. Law enforcement agencies now report incidents and arrests in four areas: simple or gross neglect; intentional abuse and torture; organized abuse, including dogfighting and cockfighting; and animal sexual abuse.

Animal sexual abuse is the sexual molestation of an animal, to include forcible rape,



Felicia Langel

sodomy, and injuring or killing an animal for sexual gratification. These acts are most commonly known as bestiality, but abusers often refer to themselves as zoophiles and zoosexuals. Many species of animals have been targeted, but due to their accessibility as companion animals, dogs and horses are the most frequent victims. Evidence of abuse among survivors includes anal and genital damage, as well as wounds to the dog muzzle and ears during restraint. Survivors tend to be very fearful when approached or touched from behind, and are unusually difficult to restrain during veterinary exams and grooming due to the association of restraint with abuse.

In most states, animal sexual abuse is covered under animal cruelty laws; however, in some states, such abuse is defined in older laws that cover sexual morality. As these laws have fallen out of favor in recent years, efforts are underway to modernize them. FBI interest in tracking this type of animal cruelty lends additional support to redefining such cases as crimes against society.

If you see or suspect animal cruelty in any form, report it to Frederick County Animal Control (301-600-1544 or 301-600-1603 after hours) or dial 911. You may choose to report animal cruelty anonymously, though doing so may hinder the investigation. You may also submit complaints related to animal cruelty online: <http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/requesttracker.aspx>.